Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Receives Message From Spain's Gonzalez

FL232249 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received a message from Spanish President [title as heard] Felipe Gonzalez during the 3-hour meeting that he held yesterday in Havana with Spanish Education Minister Jose Maria Maravall. The EFE press agency reported that education and other matters of a political nature were discussed.

Ricardo Cabrisas Arrives in Brazzaville

FL232255 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban minister of foreign trade, has arrived in Brazzaville to participate in the seventh meeting of the Cuban-Congolese Joint Intergovernmental Committee. Cabrisas met with his Congolese counterpart, Alphonse Poaty-Souchlaty, and both expressed the political will to take trade to a level equal to that of the relations between the two parties and governments.

Talks Begin

FL240150 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Experts from Cuba and the People's Republic of the Congo have opened the meetings of the sixth [as heard] Joint Intergovernmental Committee in Brazzaville. This committee is analyzing the period between 1986 and 1987, as well as future Cuban cooperation in public health, education, agriculture, and sports.

Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz met with his Congolese counterpart, Alphonse Poaty-Souchlaty, to examine the development of compensation trade in recent years. Both declared that there is a political will to deal with existing obstacles so that trade can come up to the level of the relations between the two parties, governments, and peoples.

Dominican Republic

3,000 Haitians Arrested, Deportation Planned

PA230043 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1640 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Santiago (Dominican Republic), 23 Dec (EFE)—The Santiago morning newspaper LA INFORMACION today reported that, according to official sources, more than 3,000 Haitians have been arrested by the Dominican Army in the northern part of the country and sent to the border to be deported. According to the newspaper, the arrests of Haitians, most of whom are illegal immigrants, have occurred mainly in Santiago, Villa Vasquez, Montecristi, Dajabon, Mao, Esperanza, and other cities and towns in the northern part of the country.

The newspaper reports the soldiers making the arrests enter the modest homes of the Haitians—even if they have their resident alien papers in order—arrest them, and take them to the nearest Army post, from where they are taken in trucks to the border to be deported.

The Committee for Human Rights for Haitian Residents has asked the authorities to treat the Haitians humanely and has criticized the indiscriminate raids against workers from the neighboring country.

Hundreds of Haitians are hiding in the mountains, along creeks, and near riverbanks to avoid arrest. Arsenio Estevez, president of the Committee of Solidarity With Haitians, has confirmed hundreds of Haitians have gone underground because of the raids.

Meanwhile, General Marcelo Victoria, commander of the 4th Army Brigade, denied to EFE that Haitian residents in the area under his command are being deported. He said the Haitian cane cutters who live in the Dominican Republic are arrested when they do not have resident alien papers and are taken to the 10 sugar mills in the country to cut sugarcane during the harvest. He said, however, they are treated with respect and are given food, clothing, and shelter. He denied reports that soldiers have raped Haitian women.

Gen Victoria acknowledged, however, that more than 1,000 Haitians have chosen to return to their country rather than cut sugarcane and they destroyed their modest homes before leaving.

Gen Victoria's statements parallel those of General Antonio Imbert Barreras, secretary of state for the Armed Forces, who said yesterday: "Haitians are arrested so they can cut sugarcane, which is why they came to our country. However, this is done following established procedures.

Haiti

Bazin on Possibility of Single Candidate

FL231240 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33.155 17 Dec 87 pp 1, 16

[Text] During a short conversation with one of our editors, Marc L. Bazin, leader of the MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti], said he was open to all proposals, as long as their objective was to resolve the current political crisis. This was Bazin's answer to a question from our editor as to whether or not the leader of the MIDH would be willing to study, along with others, the possibility of presenting a single candidate. "In short, if the fascists win, everybody loses. If, on the other hand, democracy is victorious, all democrats

will have their chance—today, or tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow." I have no objections to a formula, as long as it can bring about democracy, economic progress, and social justice for Haiti," said Bazin. [quotations marks as published]

If we were to choose a single candidate, certain objective criteria for the choice should be established: how much weight the candidate pulls as regards public opinion and how firm his democratic convictions are. There should also be a meticulous evaluation of the ability of each of the potential candidates to respond to the country's real economic problems, Bazin stated.

Still, for Bazin, the departure of the CNG [National Government Council] is imperative, inasmuch as the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] was dismissed because of its independence from the authorities. Asked about the apprehensions of many citizens who fear the stand taken by the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], the MIDH, the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], and the National Concerted Action Front may never lead to more than the issuance of news releases, Bazin made it very clear that although many things need to be done, it is up to not only the four leaders to assume responsibilities. It is, rather, up to the entire Haitian people, more than 80 percent of whom no longer acknowledge the CNG's authority.

Queried on a possible struggle for influence among the four leaders, Bazin said: "A unified strategy does not automatically result in unified behavior. That takes time."

He added: Besides, struggles for influence are not incompatible with a unified strategy, because the leaders must justify their actions and decisions to their partisans. But, he concluded, our ambition at present is, as in fact we affirm in our latest communique, to govern together, regardless of which one of us is victorious at the polls. This is in the interest of democracy, economic progress, and social justice.

Radio Soleil Comments on CED News Conference

FL232351 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Four political leaders, coming together in a Committee for Democratic Understanding [CED], held a news conference yesterday to reaffirm the stand they took together—condemning the 29 November massacres—and to launch an appeal for international solidarity. [passage omitted]

Here are some of the questions the journalists asked:

1. There is a lot of talk about irregularities in connection with the elections. How do you feel about this?

The candidates answered they were not complaining, and it was the CNG which was complaining about irregularities.

We think the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] did the best it could. It was made up of honest citizens with no experience who did the best they could. What is important for us four here is that, irregularities or not, we are basing ourselves on a principle. We want elections held by an organization independent from the executive branch. The moment the authorities dissolved the CEP, they involved themselves in unconstitutionality. No charge of irregularities will make us forget this principle.

Let's listen to an excerpt of attorney Gerard Gourgue's answer in connection with this matter:

[Begin Gourgue recording] If an election begins at 0600 and is interrupted by pressure, by maneuvers, by killings at 0830 or 0900, I don't see how the CNG can speak of electoral fraud or of that term so much in fashion right now: underhanded dealings [magouy]. The term underhanded dealings is very much in vogue these days. If you get indigestion, people will say your discomfort is due to underhanded dealings. If you slept badly, they will say it was due to underhanded dealings. If you give someone a dirty look, they will say you are guilty of underhanded dealings. Everything is underhanded dealings. [passage omitted]

We say that as of the evening of the 28th, what is being called the landing of the second front, the longest night in the history of Haiti, the automatic weapons were not in the hands of a single member of the democratic sector. It was not Marc Bazin, nor Sylvio Claude, nor Louis Dejoie, nor Gerard Gourgue who had those weapons. It was a particular sector that had them, and that sector was operating with impunity, just as it operated with impunity on the Ruelle Vaillant [where the largest number of people were killed on 29 November]. [passage omitted] Furthermore, as you know, throughout history—not just Haitian but rather world history—when a man does something vile, he has to find a scapegoat.

Up to the 28th, Gerard Gourgue was not being accused of anything at all. Gerard Gourgue was reproached about nothing. He campaigned as everyone else in a democracy. He was working away, making his movement dynamic. And then, as of the 28th, Gerard Gourgue was pictured in a different way. In world history, as you know, there are many regimes that resemble one another. When Nero needed to burn down Rome, he burned it down, and he said that the Christians had burned down Rome. And then he proceeded to persecute the Christians. [passage omitted] When they need to kill democracy, to prevent democrats from taking power, to stop the will of the people from being expressed through an election, they spoil the election by shooting at people and saying the democrats did it. That is what I want to point out to you, what I want you to know. [end recording]

2. Have you dropped the members of the original CEP? It was noticed you spoke of the new CEP in your statement.

The answer: If the current members wish to continue, there is no problem. But some of them have been much victimized. If they do not wish to be a part of the new CEP, the organizations empowered by the Constitution to send representatives to the CEP could choose new representatives.

3. Some observers believe the Americans are playing a double game, and (?that) no one knows what the United States real position on the situation in Haiti is.

For Marc Bazin, what is important is not what the Americans think, it is not what the U.S. position is. Rather, it is what the Haitian people themselves want. Bazin said he knows the Haitian people had wanted to put an end to dictatorship, and they were ready to assume responsibility for the political life of their country; also, when they decided to go to elections, they were ready to die, if necessary, to obtain the desired change.

Bazin had thought the CNG would ensure this transition to democracy. Regarding what the Haitian people wanted, he said the first two things had been confirmed but he was wrong about the third. Bazin feels the CNG failed to accomplish what it had said it would do when it came to power and it has failed in all spheres: political, social, and economic.

4. Specifically, what do you four propose as an alternative?

Their alternative would include the participation of a broad sector of society—people who have been struggling for democracy for a long time, well-known people. The sectors that formed the CEP would have to participate, too. It would be the responsibility of the new CNG to prepare elections within a period not to exceed 6 months.

5. Is it possible, within the framework of the Constitution, to change the CNG?

Sylvio Claude was of the opinion that, since the current CNG is not the original CNG, why not? [passage omitted]

Capital Neighborhoods Form Security Brigades

FL232226 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The coordinating body of the [neighborhood] committees of Port-au-Prince announces in a communique just issued they will defend themselves and they have only just begun to do so, given the terrible situation in Haiti today.

The coordinating body reports the committees' popular movement was blocked in February 1986.

We were given a macoute CNG. Instead of obtaining satisfaction for our demands, we had arrests, imprisonment, and death. Instead of obtaining satisfaction for our demands, we had aborted elections. They spread insecurity throughout the country, in all poor, densely-populated areas, and then they told us we did not have the right to form security brigades to defend the lives and property of our families and our friends in our neighborhoods.

The macoutes in blue and the macoutes in khaki are now more evident than ever, sowing terror in all our neighborhoods. They are quick to arrest and quick to shoot.

In view of all this, just like the National Alliance of People's Organizations [Alyans Nasyonal Oganizasyon Popile Yo], the coordinating body of the neighborhood committees of Port-au-Prince continues to say no serious elections are possible without our effecting a cleanup. We will continue to set up security brigades in all neighborhoods to defend our lives and property because the Army protects only the neighborhoods of the big shots.

We will continue to strengthen the National Alliance of People's Organizations.

The communique is signed by Kodena, which is the Committee for the Defense of the National Interest [Komite Defans Intere Nasyonal]; by the Pro-Cooperation Federation [Federasyon Tet Ansanm], which is the FTA; by Fedka, which is the Federation of Neighborhood Com...ittees and Associations [Federasyon Komite Katye avek Asosyasyon]; and KASS [as heard], which is the Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil [Koordinasyon Asosyasyon Cite Soleil].

Electoral Campaign Officially Opens 22 Dec

FL232245 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The electoral campaign for the general elections scheduled for 17 January officially opened yesterday through a decree issued by the National Government Council calling the people to elections; this was read last night over RTNH [Radio Tele-Diffusion Nationale d'Haiti, the national television and radio stations].

The decree also stipulates that candidacies to the municipal, legislative, and presidential elections are to be filed from 23 to 30 December 1987. These candidacies may be contested between 23 December 1987 and 3 January 1988. [passage omitted]

The electoral campaign is scheduled to end on 15 January 1988.

Up to the present, three candidates whose candidacies had been accepted by the former Provisional Electoral Council dismissed on 29 November have announced publicly they will run for office: Gregoire Eugene, of the Haitian Social Christian Party, a former adversary of Jean-Claude Duvalier; Hubert de Ronceray, a sociologist and former minister of Jean-Claude Duvalier who went over to the opposition and who is also the founder of the Mobilization for National Development; and the president of a small group, the National Party for the Defense of the Workers, Pastor Dumas J. Arnold. [passage omitted]

Another candidate, Mr Luc B. Innocent of the MUR, the Revolutionary Unity Movement, has announced he is withdrawing his candidacy and will not run for office in the 17 January elections.

Group Calls for Reconciliation With CNG

FL231245 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The Democratic Combatants League of Cite Drouillard has issued a news release in which it says that after thinking about the situation prevailing in Haiti from 7 February 1987 to 29 November 1987, it sees Haiti is in danger. That is why the members of the league, which is struggling night and day so peace and democracy can be established in the country, ask the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, the Federation of Protestant Churches, opposition sectors, and all democratic sectors to ask the Haitian people to get together in order to bring about a general reconciliation.

They ask these sectors to form a chain of solidarity with the CNG [National Government Council] to find a solution to the crisis Haiti is going through.

The press release is signed by (Jean Roger), founder of the League, and Thomas Joseph, advisor.

BED/BEC Members Not Yet Installed in Jacmel

FL231250 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Report by Jacmel correspondent (Mozart Duplan)]

[Text] There are two gas stations in Jacmel—the Shell station on Avenue (Baranquilla) and the Texaco station on the Grand Rue. Already at the end of last week there were rumors there would soon be a gasoline shortage. Therefore, everyone with a vehicle—and even those who do not own a vehicle—rushed to the gas stations in their vehicles, or with oil drums and all kinds of other containers, and bought up and carted away all the gasoline. Now neither gas station has any gasoline.

On that same morning, there was even a run on kerosene. A group of vendors came on their donkeys to buy up and cart away the kerosene. [Words indistinct] everyone rushed to buy up and store away the gas.

As regards the Departmental Electoral Office [BED] and the Communal Electoral Office [BEC] in Jacmel, we cannot yet give you precise information, because they put out a new list every day. One day you hear so-and-so is a member, and the next day you hear it is someone else. We have a list of many names, but we dare not give it. We are going to wait until it is official, until the people are sworn in. None as yet has been sworn in. There are rumors and more rumors, changes and more changes all the time. [Words indistinct] this morning, apparently they have decided on a definitive choice, but the members are not yet installed. I will wait until they are installed before giving you the list of names of BED and BEC members.

We will follow events, and if they are installed today, we will report it to Radio Nationale immediately.

St Lucia

Compton on 'Free and Fair' Elections in Haiti

FL240137 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Dec 23, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) is unlikely to recognize a new government in Haiti chosen under the current electoral laws, Chairman John Compton said on Wednesday. Compton, the prime minister of St Lucia, has already called on his colleagues to urge the postponement of the poll, because present arrangements could not facilitate free and fair elections in Haiti.

If the military council fails to heed the call for a postponement of the elections then certain measures would have to be taken, he told CANA in an interview.

We will have to cut out all diplomatic association with Haiti as a start. I don't think we can recognise such a government, Compton said.

Last weekend, Haiti's military led government published a new election law that allows authorities to inspect every voters ballot and soldiers to enter polling booths.

The St Lucian leader was a member of the so-called group of concerned Caribbean leaders who visited Haiti earlier this month for talks on the aborted November 29 elections.

In a statement on Tuesday Compton complained about the lack of Caricom consensus on Haiti.

Costa Rica

Government Rejects Panamanian Envoy's Return

PA231955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1845 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] San Jose, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government today opposed the possibility that David Pere, Panamanian ambassador to Costa Rica, will continue occupying his position, as was announced by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia yesterday.

Costa Rican Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo described the announcement released by various international news agencies attributed to Abadia as "surprising," and he said he hopes the report appeared because of a "conceptual error," because the truth is that "Mr Pere cannot remain in Costa Rica as the Panamanian ambassador here."

Vice President Dengo said he is sure that President Oscar Arias supports this position, which was adopted when the so-called "Pere incident" occurred while President Arias was in Oslo, Norway, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

Visibly worried, Dengo mentioned the irregular way of dealing with "this kind of matter," outside existing diplomatic channels.

Pere, ignoring the Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Ministry, went ahead and told the press on 14 December about the presumed trafficking of weapons and men from Costa Rica, which was linked to a plan to kill General Noriega and destabilize President Eric Arturo Delvalle's government.

Pere's statements were considered "very serious" by the Costa Rican Government because they imply charges against Costa Rica's neutrality policy and because they accuse Costa Rican authorities of corruption, blackmail, and carelessness.

Dengo said that this time Foreign Minister Abadia again used the press in Panama to deal with a foreign affairs matter, because the Costa Rican Government has not received any communication on Pere continuing as Panamanian ambassador in Costa Rica.

In "such delicate" matters, "one should not and must not work with the media or goodwill messengers but only with government officials. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Vice President Dengo said that he has "already requested" a "clarification from the Government of Panama" through the Foreign Ministry.

The information Dengo is requesting is needed to decide whether or not the reports issued by the various international news agencies "express what Foreign Minister Abadia said." If that is the case, Costa Rica also wants to know "whether that means the Panamanian Government accepts the report presented by Mr Pere and makes it an official one."

If Pere's statements are made official, "Panama would have to present specific charges," which the diplomat "was unable to do" before the Costa Rican Foreign Affairs and Security Ministries, so the Costa Rican Government can take proper actions.

Jorge Manuel Dengo stressed that Costa Rica is not requesting Panama to give "explanations," but only to clarify the content of the reports released by the press which are attributed to Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia.

El Salvador

Blandon on Casualties, FMLN Strategy, Truce

PA240306 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Report on interview with General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, with unidentified reporters on 22 December; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Blandon] "I have been informed of a special investigation to follow up on reports that foreigners of Panamanian, Dominican, and other extractions have entered the country at the Honduran-Salvadoran border. We are also investigating the kidnappings of a number of youths to provide a more accurate figure. I personally estimate the number of armed subversive troops in the entire country at 4,000."

Gen Blandon also reported on the casualties inflicted on the Army and the FMLN—including dead and wounded—during the past year:

[Blandon] "We had a little over 450 deaths and 1,082 wounded. Of the wounded, 90 percent were returned to their units because their wounds were minimal. We estimate that the subversives were left with more than 1,000 dead, more than 600 wounded, 54 [words indistinct]—if my memory does not fail me—and a little over 400 captured. These are the results in casualties of military operations throughout the country."

Gen Blandon added that the FMLN's strategy changed approximately 2 years ago:

[Blandon] "In 1984 the terrorists became aware that their strategy of using larger units was inadequate to attain power, because they had already organized units at the battalion level. The Armed Forces' activities made them lose control, and they opted for a new strategy: to divide and disperse into small groups, and now—in a much more intensive way—they are waging a war of mining. This is their basic strategy, and I believe they are

taking advantage of the political situation, the political polarization, and the country's economic difficulties to carry out their hostile actions. It is a fact that the Armed Forces have suffered a considerable number of casualties because we have engaged in continuous activities throughout the nation, and this mobilization of forces has undoubtedly caused more clashes and more casualties."

When referring to the FMLN plan, including a list of 70 people who have received threats from the organization, the chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff said:

[Blandon] "The subversives have prepared a plan for the end of year and for the beginning of 1988, and the incidents that are taking place—for example, the almost simultaneous seizure of the Finance Ministry and the cathedral and other incidents you have mentioned—are part of this strategy. The rebels plan to combine military actions with political-military actions and terrorism. They plan to mobilize some groups in San Salvador to cause problems for the government and security forces, and they also plan to use their death squads for personal attacks against political and government figures and ranking military chiefs. I said a little while ago that we have a list, and we will send an alert to those people so they can take the necessary measures. In response to your question, this is part of the strategy to make the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections fail.

[Reporter] "Gen Blandon, regarding military changes, I have been informed that Colonel Lopez Nuila may leave his post as deputy public security minister. In general terms, what changes will be made next year?

[Blandon] "The only certain change at this point is Col Lopez Nuila's. This has already been announced by the president, and he is the one who chooses his ministers and deputy ministers. For the time being, the Armed Forces can only say that there will be changes of some significance, but I cannot give names because the protocol under which we operate at the General Staff calls for us to discuss the issue at the military command level, and later to submit the decision for the president's approval.

"It would be very risky to give you names and details, because it is 22 December and we have 8 days in which to complete the task, which is not so easy. There will be changes in the high and middle ranks, but not many. However, there will be changes. [Words indistinct] also movement abroad of military [words indistinct]. There will be promotions and retirements. December is usually a month of heavy movement.

[Reporter] "What about the truce, General?

[Blandon] "We have come to understand that terrorists do not understand truces. They take advantage of truces to arm, train, and recruit people, and to intensify their attacks on permanent positions and on civilian towns and defenses. Therefore, it is of no use to decree a truce, because they will not respect it."

Labor Minister Announces Resignation

PA231620 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Miguel Alejandro Gallegos has announced his resignation as of 1 January 1988. He said he would accept a diplomatic post, probably as Salvadoran ambassador to Switzerland.

Before being labor minister Gallegos held the position of inspector general, labor office director, and deputy labor minister. He replaced Julio Alfredo Samayoa, the current justice minister.

Nicaragua

Obando y Bravo: Talks 'Not Completely Broken'

PA231725 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today told ACAN-EFE that the dialogue between the Nicaraguan Government and the "contras" to agree on a cease-fire "is not completely broken."

Obando y Bravo, who arrived in Panama City on board a Panamanian Air Force plane last night from Santo Domingo, said that "as long as there is a possibility for dialogue I will be there." Obando y Bravo will "possibly" leave for Managua today.

The prelate said that the "impasse" in the talks has occurred because the representatives of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) demand the presence of a Nicaraguan Government representative in the dialogue, and the Nicaraguan authorities apparently refuse to accept the demand.

Msgr Obando y Bravo arrived in the Dominican Republic on Monday to continue his mediation between the Nicaraguan Government and the anti-Sandinists during the second round of negotiations to agree on a cease-fire.

Contras Report on Attacks on Mining Towns

PA232020 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1845 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Report by Alister Doyle]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 23 Dec (REUTER)—Anti-Sandinist rebels today said that their attacks this past weekend on three Nicaraguan mining towns would not have been possible were it not for the help of the civilian population.

"We achieved all military objectives," stated a communique read by rebel Radio Liberacion in a final evaluation of the fighting that took place in the towns of Siuna, Bonanza, and Rosita.

"The operation would not have been possible without the firm support and help of brave members (of the civilian population), who provided food, shelter, guidance, and secret information, and cooperated in the sabotage operations and other tasks," the communique stated. [passage omitted]

"Our troops again took by surprise...the entire Sandinist security system, which is trained by Soviets, Cubans, and other nations of the communist bloc," the communique stated. [passage omitted]

The contras said they had destroyed military installations around the towns, including the largest radar system in northern Nicaragua. They added that this will help facilitate the provisioning of flights coming from landing strips in Honduras.

The communique also stated that the contras had seized large quantities of weapons in Siuna, including 600 AK-47 rifles and ammunition, 153 machineguns, and 22 SAM-7 rockets. In Bonanza the contras destroyed a hydroelectric plant used to supply energy to nearby gold and silver mines.

The rebels said they did not attempt to close down the mines, which are a resource used by the Sandinists for foreign trade.

Radio Liberacion added that the contras are planning to call for a 2-day truce during Christmas, on 24 and 25 December, just like the Sandinists have done. The negotiations for a long-term cease-fire failed yesterday in the Dominican Republic when the contras asked for a face-to-face dialogue with Sandinist negotiators instead of with foreign representatives.

Panama

Diaz Herrera, Followers Sentenced to 5 Years

PA231747 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Panama City (ACAN-EFE)—Retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera and seven bodyguards and followers were sentence to 5 years in prison for "attempts against the state," officials sources reported today.

Abelardo Castillo, secretary for Judge Albino Alain, who issued the sentence against Diaz Herrera and his followers, reported this to ACAN-EFE. He added that he did not know whether the government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle has granted pardon to these people, as has been mentioned in local political circles.

Diaz Herrera and the seven people accompanying him when his home was raided by the Army on 27 July pleaded guilty to "attempts against the state."

Retired Col Diaz Herrera was the catalyst of a political crisis at the beginning of June when he charged General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (Army and police), with "corruption," "murder," and involvement with international drug traffickers.

'Text' of President Delvalle's Pardon Decree

PA231344 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Dec 87 pp 1, A-18

["Text" of Decree No 91 issued by President Eric Arturo Delvalle on 22 December]

[Text] Decree No 91.

(Issued on 22 December 1987)

The president of the Republic, in possession of his constitutional powers

Decrees:

Article 1. To grant pardon to the following people who are or are presumably accused of committing political and related common crimes since 8 June 1987, thus:

Juan Bautista Rangel; Luis Perez Montenegro; Julio Cesar Navarro; Agustin Rosales Abadia; Gustavo Adolfo Becker; Daniel Rodriguez Bonilla; Edy Escobar; Ignacio Villarreta; Ceferino Cano; Jose Miguel Gutierrez; Alfredo Ehler Solorza; Gaspar Jaen Torres; Marcos Antonio Chang; Raquel Lanuza de Francis; Anayansi Ehler de Jaen; Anayansi Francis Bilgray de Ehler; Cecilia Francis Lanuza; Diomedes Emilio Barrera Cedeno; Jacob Ortiz Serrano; Jose Domingo Torres Adames; Emilio De Leon Luque; Rodrigo Rodriguez; Mario Arrue Bravo; Guillermo Antonio Grimaldo Villarreal; Denis Arleides Barrios Cano; Balbino Dominguez Velasquez; Israel Gonzalez Amores; Bolivar Patricio Amores; Alexander Amores Cordoba; Francisco Fuller; Rodrigo Cesar Correa Delgado; Luis Alfonso Estribi Marciaga; Miguel Antonio Bernal Villalaz; Luz Maria Llorente; Carlos Ivan Zuniga Candanedo; Roberto Arosemena Jaen; Luis Guillermo Zuniga Arauz; Carlos Ivan Zuniga Guardia; Aurelio Antonio Barria Mock; Carmen Cecilia Capriles Estrada; Victor Manuel Falcon Paz; Juan Ramon Quintero Medina; Roberto Gonzalo Brenes Perez; Eduardo Vallarino Arjona; Gilberto Joaquin Mallol Tamayo; Raul Ernesto Mendez Anguizola; Jaime Penedo Martinez; Cesar Augusto Tribaldos Ciraldez; Rafael Zuniga Brid; Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra; Tomas Humberto Herrera Diaz; Leopoldo Augusto Aranda Benjamin; Pelayo A. Fernandez Lima-Young; Enrique Mora Martin; Bartolo Cisneros Benjamin; Maria del Carmen Alfaro Villagueliu; Alberto Villagueliu; Tony Wong

Cheng; Carmen Brandaris Zuniga; Jorge Waldrew; Porfirio Cerrud Grajales; Domingo Vergara Herrera; Anayansi Guerra Hurtado; Mario Alberto Quezada Illueca; Marco Antonio Gonzalez Espino; Pedro Antonio Fernandez Guerrero; Mirna Irene Brown Guerrero; Ramon Enrique de Jesus Fonseca Lopez; Oscar Antonio Navarro Acevedo; Manuel Ducasa Batista; Winston Robles; Fabian Echevers; Ruben Dario Carles; Ricardo Alberto Arias; Jose Isabel Blandon Figueroa; Enrique Antonio Herrera Cerrud; Ernesto Vega Jaen; Francisco Gomez S.; Domingo Gonzalez; Concepcion Flores Mitre; Vilma Mojica Valdes; Guillermo Arturo Perez; Jose Arturo Flores; Manuel Antonio Rodriguez; Adrian Miranda Tetore; Niurka Dionisia Cozzarelli de Arosemena; Gumercindo Llorente; Eulalia de Llorente; Jaime Padilla Veliz; and Felix Ochy.

Article 2.: No legal action can be taken or continued against those who committed the aforementioned crimes, their accomplices, and those who concealed those crimes.

Article 3.: This pardon eliminates the legal action and sentence issued against those who are here pardoned in accordance with Article No 91 of the Criminal Code.

Article 4.: This decree will be valid as of 23 December 1987.

Issued in Panama City on 22 December 1987

Be it promulgated and executed.

Eric Arturo Delvalle, President of the Republic

Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, Government and Justice Minister

Crusade Leaders Reject Pardon

PA232341 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2020 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Washington, 23 Dec (EFE) — The leaders of the Panamanian opposition's Civic Crusade—Aurelio Barria, Eduardo Vallarino, Roberto Brenes, Gilbert Mallol, and Rafael Zuniga—"will not accept" the pardon decreed yesterday by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Barria, who views the decree as "a farce and a political maneuver of General Manuel Antonio Noriega" to buy time, said: "We cannot accept it." The Panamanian businessman said that the fact that the pardon excludes the director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, Roberto Eisenmann; the paper's deputy director, Guillermo Sanchez Borbon; and Gabriel Lewis Galindo, a businessman and former ambassador, "is evidence that Delvalle is obeying Noriega's instructions."

Barria said that there are three main reasons why they cannot accept the pardon:

1. "The president does not have any legal authority to decree a pardon, since this is a prerogative of the Legislative Assembly."

2. "There is no desire [on the part of the government] to have national reconciliation, which explains why the decree is limited and exclusive."

3. "There are many laws in Panama, but they are not respected, and we believe that the military will not respect the decree."

Regarding the reopening of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, Barria said that "there are discrepancies" because it has been said that the daily will be authorized to begin publishing again in January, but meanwhile there is a ban on the return of the newspaper's director and of its most important columnist.

Barria said that the Crusade "will not accept" elections directed by Noriega, "so there will be no repeat of the Haiti situation." Barria said that he will continue exerting pressure for "truly free" elections in Panama in 1988—not in 1989, as Noriega wants.

Abadia Denies Envoy to Costa Rica Removed

PA231420 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias said this afternoon that David Pere, Panamanian ambassador to Costa Rica, has not been removed from his post and that Pere's accusations are being investigated by the two governments.

Abadia added that any decision regarding this matter must be made by the president of the Republic and that Ambassador Pere is still in charge of our diplomatic mission in San Jose.

[Begin recording] [Abadia] The president of the Republic must make the decision. We feel that Ambassador Pere has made accusations that will be investigated by the two governments—the Costa Rican and Panamanian Governments —and any ultimate decision must be made by the president of the Republic.

[Reporter] Who is currently in charge of the Panamanian diplomatic mission in Costa Rica?

[Abadia] Pere will be returning to Costa Rica; he is currently in charge.

[Reporter] He has not been officially removed?

[Abadia] No, sir. [end recording]

Argentina

Alfonsin Delivers Christmas Message to Nation

PY240054 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Christmas address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from Buenos Aires on 23 December; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We have regained international prestige. We have succeeded in promoting dialogue and tolerance in Argentina, proof of which are the talks held in recent days by a multiparty agreement board. As you know, these talks yielded truly important solutions to various issues. Of course there have been—as should be the case in any pluralist democracy—dissident opinions and even disagreements. We have shown, however, that we can work together. [passage omitted]

Thus, I believe we can be optimistic about our prospects for next year. We have our people. We also have leaders who understand that we must work together, that we must join efforts and put sectorial interests aside in the best interests of our nation, which has recovered its international prestige.

Despite the difficulties stemming from the debt and from declining international prices, our nation is already gaining international support. Proof of this is the generous position taken by Italy which, although pursuing its own interests, has moved closer to Argentina to support the development we all want to achieve. Other countries will follow suit; there will be similar actions if we give tangible proof that we are making a genuine effort.

Europeans cannot forget the tremendous effort they had to make to build their economies. We are showing the world that we are a responsible, proud people who are trying to rebuild their nation, to make it use its potential, and to build its future.

Thus, I believe that despite our overwhelming difficulties we have managed to make progress and to boost our own confidence. We can all take pride in saying that we have served Argentine democracy. We have resisted absurd attempts. We elected our candidates, and we changed provincial governments. We have respected the people's rights, and we have worked at times with dedication and sacrifice.

This is what Argentina is like today. It is this Argentina that will allow us to build the future Argentina we want for our children and grandchildren.

At this time of year people are more inclined to soul-searching than to reviewing social achievements. Irrespective of personal problems and evaluations, we can make a review of our social achievements. This evaluation shows that we, the Argentine people, have fared positively. This review is positive not only because our economy has grown, but because we are beginning to understand that it is through democracy that we will change course and will energetically make those decisions designed to serve our fatherland.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas. May we remain equally united throughout the next year. May each of you have the best of luck and a prosperous year, convinced that we are already moving on the right course. We have restored democracy and, through our efforts, we are going to secure for our children many years of achievements and accomplishments in our country.

Thank you very much for the efforts you made this year. Let us get ready for a new year, a year which will no doubt be difficult, but for which we will be better prepared to consolidate our chances to grow.

Good night and happy holidays.

President Cited on Astiz Promotion, Retirement

PY232101 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin yesterday signed the promotion of Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz to the rank of Lieutenant Commander but instructed Defense Minister Jose Horacio Juanarena to withdraw the officer from active duty, it was officially reported.

At 8 pm yesterday presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez told the press waiting at Government House that President Alfonsin had signed the decree accepting the promotion and distributed copies of the president's instructions for Juanarena.

The instructions state that "the officer's situation having been resolved, the Argentine President is now worried about the possible negative effects that his remaining on active duty could have on the unity of society, as well as the related repercussion in military institutions."

"That is why I have considered... that Lieutenant Algredo Ignacio Astiz must not remain on active duty, ordering the corresponding procedure to that effect," it continues.

In the instructions the President also points out that "this government has from the very beginning shown its unswerving commitment to the restoration of the rule of law and respect for human dignity."

He states also that "in the search for these basic aims... it was considered fundamental to prevent a shield of impunity from falling on those who, from the government, were responsible for the conception and execution of a campaign based on objectionable methods."

After recalling the conviction of former military junta members, Alfonsin says that "on the basis of that order, we are now faced with the case of an officer who, according to or against his will, acquired a special significance to Argentine society, which massively condemns the methods which his then superiors used to combat terrorist groups which threatened the fate of the country."

Meanwhile, Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) leader Luis Zamora and lawyers representing relatives of missing French nuns Alice Domon and Leonie Duquet as well as missing Swedish-Argentine youth Dagmar Hagelin yesterday presented before the courts evidence "exposing the criminal and inmoral activities" of Astiz.

Moratorium on Debt Payment Said Possible

PY231917 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The government may be forced to declare a unilateral moratorium on the payment of the foreign debt. According to an article published by the weekly SOMOS, the government will not be able to continue paying under the current conditions; therefore, a deferment of the payments is inevitable, since the foreign banks are no longer willing to grant new loans.

It has also been learned that Argentina used about 80 percent of its resources during the first half of 1987 to pay the interest on the foreign debt. This represents 4.5 percent of the annual GDP, according to a report prepared by the Institute of Economic [words indistinct].

Large Police Operation in Cordoba Announced

PY231530 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1250 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cordoba, 23 Dec (DYN)—Last night, Cordoba provincial police launched a huge raid in the neigborhood of Yapeyu, near the Suquia River, that concluded with the arrest of seven people and the seizure of a large number of hand weapons and stolen goods.

Some 200 police officers and 50 vehicles participated in the raid through the area, which has some 36 blocks. The operation was ordered and supervised by Judge Hector Moya.

Seven people were detained as a result of the raids. Their identities were not made public, but police confiscated hand weapons and allegedly stolen goods.

Brazil

Sarney Modifies, Signs Software Copyright Law

PY231547 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Dec 87 p 20

[Text] Brasilia—President Jose Sarney yesterday promulgated the Software Copyright Law, which regulates rights and commercial use of computer software, [preceding word given in English] in the country, and vetoed two basic items of the draft submitted by Congress: First, he vetoed the need for user rights titles (titulos de uso) for the use of software by third parties, and second, he vetoed the use of price differentials when comparing national and foreign software.

Article 10, item C, of the text approved by the Chamber of Deputies underlined that one of the elements to be used when comparing software was their relative prices.

The president was of the opinion that the comparison should only take into account the software, and not the leasing price, sale price, or the rights for commecial exploitation.

The president also dropped the requirement that software should be protected from copying, as well as the other obligations arising from the articles of the draft which had been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

Planalto Palace held the understanding that only the owner or the author of software can grant user rights to a third party. According to the present Constitution, it is not correct for an administrative authority—as in the case of the Special Secretariat for Information Science [SEI]—to assume the author's rights.

This interpretation has modified the terms of Article 16 of the draft approved by Congress, which established a percentage contribution to the Special Fund for Information Science and Automation on the issuance of user rights titles for foreign-made programs. The new interpretation also modifies Article 14 authorizing the SEI to charge for the registration of user rights titles, according to a table that was to have been elaborated by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

All other articles defining specific conditions for obtaining user rights titles, and the penalties for their infringement, were also vetoed.

Central Bank Head Named New Debt Negotiator

PY232227 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Acting Finance Minister Mailson Nobrega today announced that the Brazilian Government has reached a preliminary agreement with its international creditor banks. This agreement, Nobrega said, will enable the Brazilian Government to pay interest on its foreign debt for the months of October, November, and December. [passage omitted]

Nobrega also announced that Central Bank President Fernando Milliet will now be the official foreign debt negotiator in view of Fernao Bracher's departure from the Finance Ministry.

Milliet will start his new task on 11 January when a new stage of negotiations on payments falling due in 1988 and 1989 opens. Nobrega said President Sarney will formally approve this decision through a decree in the next few days.

Chile

U.S. Aid to Democracy Group Assailed

Merino Charges 'Meddling'

PY231148 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has described a decision by the U.S. Congress to contribute $1 million to the so-called Promotion of Democracy in Chile organization as unacceptable and vulgar meddling.

The Chilean Navy commander in chief made this comment after presiding over a regular Government Junta session at the Diego Portales building.

Adm Merino said that he would submit to the Government Junta a bill to supply $2 million to organizations operating in the United States to defend human rights there.

[Begin Merino recording] I believe that again this is unacceptable meddling by the United States.

The United States can do as it pleases at home. However, it cannot, in my opinion, try to interfere, in such a vulgar fashion, in the decisions and the political management of other countries.

I am going to make a proposal—and I feel that the other Government Junta members will agree to pass it on to the president of the Republic—to submit a bill to supply $2 million to all commissions. This money would be used to defend all those defenseless people in the United States, that is, all those people such as the Mexicans, who are not allowed to live in the United States, and the blacks, whose human rights are not respected, and to combat abortion as there are more than 1 million abortions in the United States. If the executive branch approves this bill we will send $2 million to those commissions. [end recording]

Asked about a constitutional court ruling indicting socialist leader Clodomiro Almeyda for violating Article 8 of the Constitution, Adm Merino said:

[Begin Merino recording] This is a question for the court. In my opinion, the court must decide as established by law. The court has the irrevocable right of interpreting the Constitution and [words indistinct] [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Cited

PY232033 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Report from La Moneda Palace by Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Brigadier General Francisco Ramirez has described a U.S. congressional decision to contribute $1 million to the Chilean opposition as meddling in our domestic affairs.

Ramirez said he agreed with the remarks Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has made on this issue.

[Begin Ramirez recording] With Admiral Merino's permission, I would like to say that I share his opinion, that is, the one he stated yesterday afternoon. This is unacceptable meddling in our domestic affairs. I fully share Admiral Merino's opinion. [end recording]

Ministry Issues Communique

PY240008 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has described a U.S. congressional proposal to approve a $1-million fund to promote democracy in our country as unacceptable meddling in Chilean domestic affairs.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci released an official Foreign Ministry communique.

[Begin Ducci recording] In a communique dated 3 December 1987, the Foreign Ministry expressed its most categorical rejection of amendments to next year's bill on the appropriation of funds for foreign aid presented to the U.S. Senate by Democratic Senator Harkin.

The U.S. Congress approved this proposal today, including the amendments which, among other points, include monetary contributions.

The Foreign Ministry now reaffirms the content of its communique dated 3 December 1987 and again repudiates this unacceptable meddling in Chilean domestic affairs, which are the sovereign concern of the Chilean people, who are the only ones legitimately entitled to make their decisions, without any type of foreign meddling or pressure

The Foreign Ministry also reasserts its conviction that the maturity of the Chilean people will lead them to reject those who become involved in this new illegitimate foreign meddling. [end recording]

This was an official Foreign Ministry communique.

Government Suspends Almeyda's Rights

PA221430 Paris AFP in Spanish 1350 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Santiago, 22 Dec (AFP)—The Chilean Constitutional Tribunal, created under President Augusto Pinochet's military regime, has ordered the suspension of the civil and political rights of Clodomiro Almeyda, former foreign minister and imprisoned political dissident, "to punish his Marxist tendency," Almeyda's lawyer reported today.

The decision, which is unappealable and valid for 10 years, was approved with the votes of four of the seven tribunal members, who are appointed by Pinochet, the legislative junta of the Armed Forces commanders in chief, the State Security Council, and the Supreme Court of Justice.

Further Details on Suspension

PY222104 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Chilean Constitutional Court has decided, by a four to three vote, to suspend the political rights of Socialist leader Clodomiro Almeyda for 10 years.

Almeyda's lawyer, Pablo Lagos, and Attorney General Ambrosio Rodriguez were notified of the court's decision by Constitutional Court Secretary Rafael Larrain. Larrain discussed the court's decision with this station:

[Begin Larrain recording] The Constitutional Court has handed down its decision in relation to the charges filed by the Interior Ministry against Clodomiro Almeyda for violating Article 8 of the Constitution. The court ruled that Almeyda violated that constitutional article. Four judges supported the sentence: Eyzaguirre, Ortuzar, (Augusto), and Urzua. The three judges who dissented were Valenzuela, Filippi, and Maldonado. The decision was written by Judge Eugenio Valenzuela Somarriva. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Pablo Lagos said that Almeyda was not surprised by the court's decision and emphasized that it was not a unanimous decision, that three judges dissented.

Lagos also explained that the decision cannot be appealed and that it goes into affect with the application of Article 8 from the time of notification. Therefore, Almeyda is prohibited from carrying out political activity, holding public office, and teaching for the next 10 years. He has also been prohibited from expressing his opinion through the media or holding any jobs in the media.

Paraguay

PATRIA on Principles of Foreign Relations

PY240237 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Country With a Firm Position"]

[Text] Paraguay is not only a country that fulfills its international commitments, from the Vienna Treaty to all other pacts and agreements, but it is also a country with many bilateral agreements that show its diligence and concern for foreign relations.

To this historical position of our country, strengthened and enriched by the foreign policy of President Stroessner's Colorado government, we can add the patriotic desire to make Paraguay known to all and to be valued as a nation, as a sovereign state, as a representative democratic republic—and Paraguay likewise expects consideration and respect from other nations. These are essential conditions for international coexistence.

In its relations with other nations Paraguay is not affected by pressures and counterpressures from foreign interests, but follows its own interests. It has never had spurious interests or hidden intentions, and this gives it the moral strength to uphold these fundamental principles: The Paraguayan people are determined to resolve their own domestic problems, with no foreign meddling in their domestic affairs, upholding their right to the equal treatment that is appropriate in the concert of free nations. Everything else that emerges from international solidarity when acting in accordance with common principles will come naturally. And Paraguay will not lose confidence in having the support of friendly nations to overcome its own limitations, its relatively less developed state, its landlocked situation far from a sea coast, and the obstacles to its economic development as an agricultural and livestock country that produces raw materials. Likewise, Paraguay does not overlook its integration commitments, seeking complementarity and cooperation with other nations, without prejudice of false apprehension, as demonstrated by the policy implemented with our great neighbors. The binational hydroelectric dams of Itaipu, with Brazil, and Yacyreta, with Argentina, are long-lasting examples of this cooperation. There is also the example of the highway integration policy energetically developed in an effort to turn Paraguay's landlocked position into a centrally located facility to promote continental integration from sea to sea and along the axis of the great international rivers of the region. Paraguay is equally interested in everything for its own future, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, and from the La Plata Basin to the Amazon, because any inland development will accelerate Paraguay's own development, as can be seen along the borders with neighboring countries.

This position calls for a serious attitude and conduct, respectful and firm in the fulfillment of contracted commitments and in the defense of the principles that

support those commitments which, reduced to their essential points, refer to trade, integration, security, and the development of projects in line with those goals.

For a stance to inspire confidence and be applicable in all situations, it must be based on universal principles, and in this respect our country has responsibly endorsed the most appropriate formulas, as stated in Article 9 of our Constitution: "The Republic of Paraguay upholds the principles of international law; condemns wars of aggression and conquest as well as all forms of colonialism and imperialism; accepts the peaceful resolution of international conflicts through legal means; and proclaims respect for human rights and for the sovereignty of nations. Paraguay hopes to live in peace with all nations and to have continuously friendly cultural and trade relations based on legal equality, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and the self-determination of nations. The Republic of Paraguay may join multilateral international systems of development, cooperation, and security."

With due attention to these constitutional provisions, it can be readily seen that, even in cases where Paraguay has not formally taken part in specific commitments, if these commitments are supported by principles of international law the government will acknowledge such principles as a basis for discussing matters involving those specific commitments. This is good reason, then, for the government to exercise great care in fulfilling its commitments, regardless of the matter involved, whether it be people, goods, or policies.

If its relations with neighboring countries have particular relevance and importance for Paraguay owing to its geographic location, it is also true that its international conduct has always been the same with all nations with which it maintains relations, and its best banner is the traditional hospitality and security the country has always given to permanent or incidental representatives of every government that maintains relations with ours. This is a demonstration of that attitude and conduct of which the Republic of Paraguay is legitimately proud.

Peru

Health Minister's Resignation Refused

PA231906 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1812 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (DPA)—Peruvian Health Minister Ilda Urizar will remain in her post because the government has refused to accept her resignation, it was learned in Lima today.

Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said that Dr Urizar is trusted by President Alan Garcia Perez and that her resignation has not been accepted. She had presented her resignation yesterday in the middle of an extended national strike of almost 43 days in the health sector.

According to Urizar, she had resigned to clear the road for the resolution of the conflict, but the leaders of the strikers said they had not requested her dismissal.

The strikers said they wanted a solution to their demands for a wage increase before they would lift the strike. The minister has said she will be unable to do so until January because of the new budget approved for her sector.